

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method for maintaining and restoring hair color in an animal, comprising the steps of:

(a) adding an effective amount of a ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine to an animal consumable product having indirectly available amino acid tyrosine therein to produce a supplemented consumable; and

(b) feeding an efficacious amount of said supplemented consumable to an animal selected from the group consisting of cats and dogs to maintain and restore hair color in the animal.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said effective amount of ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine comprises at least 0.05% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said effective amount of ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine comprises at least 0.10% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

8. (previously presented) A method of promoting in an animal the synthesis of hair melanin comprising:

feeding an animal selected from the group consisting of a cat and a dog a nutritional diet comprising more than 0.50% by weight of tyrosine to promote in the animal the synthesis of hair melanin.

9. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.65% by weight to about 2.40% by weight of tyrosine.

10. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.80% by weight of indirectly available tyrosine.

11. (previously presented) A method of Claim 9 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.80% by weight of indirectly available tyrosine.

12. (currently amended) A method of Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine.

13. (currently amended) A method of Claim 9 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine.

14. (currently amended) A method of Claim 10 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine.

15. (currently amended) A method of Claim 11 wherein said nutritional diet comprises more than 0.70% by weight of ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine.

16-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) A method of Claim 8 wherein said animal comprises a cat less than about 1 year old.

27. (previously presented) A method of Claim 9 wherein said animal comprises an adult cat.

28-36. (canceled)

37. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said ~~directly~~ available free amino acid tyrosine comprises more than 0.70% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

38. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein said indirectly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.80% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

39. (previously presented) A method according to claim 37, wherein said indirectly available tyrosine comprises more than 0.80% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

40. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein said ~~directly~~ available free amino acid tyrosine comprises more than 0.20% by weight of the supplemented consumable.

41-45. (canceled)

46. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 0.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the amino acid tyrosine.

47. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.00% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the amino acid tyrosine.

48. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said nutritional diet comprises from about 1.50% by weight to about 3.00% by weight of the amino acid tyrosine.

49-51. (canceled)

52. (currently amended) A method for supplementing an animal consumable product for maintaining and restoring hair color in an animal, comprising the step of adding an effective amount of a ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine to the animal consumable product to produce a supplemented consumable product, wherein the animal is a cat or a dog.

53. (currently amended) The method of claim 52, wherein said ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine comprises at least 0.05% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

54. (currently amended) The method of claim 52, wherein said ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine comprises at least 0.10% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 52, wherein said ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine comprises more than 0.70% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

56. (currently amended) The method of claim 52, wherein said ~~directly available~~ free amino acid tyrosine comprises more than 0.20% by weight of the supplemented consumable product.

57-61. (canceled)

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the animal consumable product is food.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the animal consumable product is a medicament.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the animal consumable product is a non-harmful inert support.